

issues, I have been impressed by her dedication and efficacy. Few individuals are as deserving of recognition.

Dorena's 40 years of service speak volumes about her personal investment in, and dedication to, the CSUN community. Dorena began her relationship with the university as a student at what was then San Fernando Valley State College. Dorena has been employed at CSUN since 1964. Beginning in 1972, she held a variety of positions in the Office of the President, including 16 years as executive assistant for former President James Cleary. Her career in governmental relations began in 1982 when she dealt primarily with community inquiries. Today, as director of Governmental Affairs, Dorena oversees the seamless operation of CSUN's local, State, and Federal Government relations.

Dorena is equally comfortable whether working with national leaders, students, staff, or community members. She is a leader on campus, serving on and chairing diverse faculty, administrative, staff and student committees. She also deals effectively with the concerns of the local community. This dexterity was evidenced by her work during the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. The Earthquake hit the University hard, causing extensive damage throughout the campus. Dorena coordinated visits from local and national leaders to help them survey the damage and plan the recovery. She arranged a campus visit by President Clinton on the first anniversary of the earthquake. That presidential visit brought national attention to the importance of CSUN as a vital center of higher education in the Los Angeles area and helped promote the recovery.

Active in numerous business groups, including three chambers of commerce and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, she also is a legislative advocate for two nonprofit charitable associations.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. McKEON and me in honoring Dorena Knepper, a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life and career to CSUN, its students and to promoting higher education and civic service in the San Fernando Valley. We all wish her a fulfilling retirement.

URGING MORE AID TO PAKISTAN FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the growing tragedy in Kashmir, a northern region of Pakistan located along the Indian border. In early October of this year, an earthquake devastated that area, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving millions more homeless. Each passing day brings new heartbreak to that remote region as exposure, illness, and famine continue to wreak havoc on the population. These people are desperate, and they need our help.

The earthquake's epicenter hit Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, and registered a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale. For comparison, the 1989 earthquake that hit San Francisco had a magnitude of 7.1

and its epicenter was more than 70 miles away. The Pakistani Government has reported that at least 73,000 people have died, 15,000 they believe to be school children. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank reported in their assessment after the quake that at least 3.5 million people have been displaced, and that another 1.6 million are without adequate food supplies.

This mountainous region of Pakistan lies at the foothills of the great Himalayan Mountains. The area receives as much as 10 feet of snow during the winter months, and nighttime temperatures can easily drop to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. As winter quickly approaches, the severe potential for further catastrophe grows for the millions of homeless Pakistanis living in makeshift tent communities.

Mr. Speaker, the earthquake that devastated the capital city and surrounding communities disastrously separated brother from sister, parent from child, and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of countless families. International aid organizations have speculated that the tragedy of the quake's aftermath could surpass that of the tsunami that struck just months earlier given the region's severe climate, remoteness, and the shortfall of international assistance. Without immediate action by the international community, thousands more will surely perish.

The World Bank estimates that \$5.2 billion will be needed to adequately rebuild the region and care for the quake's victims. The Bush administration has provided \$50 million in emergency assistance and pledged another \$150 million; however, more is needed. For this reason I have written to President Bush requesting that he double his request to Congress, and provide \$300 million towards Pakistani reconstruction.

The United States and Pakistan have long worked together, and jointly we are fighting the ongoing war on terror. In addition, additional aid from our country would send a signal to other nations that the United States stands ready to help in times of need. Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the House to strongly support measures that would send additional aid to help alleviate the suffering the Pakistani people.

STATEMENT ON REMOVING NAME FROM H.J. RES. 73

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I sought and obtained unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 73, a resolution introduced by my friend and colleague Rep. JACK MURTHA calling for the rapid withdrawal of American forces from Iraq.

In short, my name was added in error. But I'd like to take this opportunity to explain why I cannot support Mr. MURTHA's resolution at this time.

Rep. MURTHA's call for the rapid redeployment of U.S. forces carries significant weight in Congress because he is not only a decorated veteran, but also one of the most respected voices in our country on military and national security policy.

Like Rep. MURTHA, I believe the Bush administration has largely failed in Iraq because the civilian direction of the war has not matched the skill and sacrifice of our soldiers. Going to war the way we did was a strategic mistake, and the aftermath has been a failure because of the president's refusal to plan and refusal to listen.

Unlike Mr. MURTHA, I voted against the resolution authorizing the president to rush to war in the first place. I did so because I had concerns about the president's refusal to consider more aggressive inspections of WMD before going to war, his inability to secure greater international support, his obvious failure to develop a plan for securing peace after ousting Saddam, and his reckless disregard of experienced military advice.

Although I was an outspoken opponent of going to war in Iraq, I have supported our brave soldiers because it has seemed to me that our national security is now linked, like it or not, to a credible plan for stabilizing Iraq and preventing a catastrophic civil war in the region.

I remain concerned about setting an arbitrary date for withdrawal because how we leave is as important as when we leave. Nevertheless, Mr. MURTHA's call, coupled with the evaporation of public confidence in the president's management of the war, should be a wake-up call to the president to develop a strategy that can garner bipartisan support and set an unmistakable path toward exiting Iraq expeditiously and with our interests and security intact.

This country cannot have 535 commanders-in-chief. There can only be one commander-in-chief, and we need him to better explain his strategy and to be honest with the American people about the costs and timetable for executing that strategy.

We were led into war as a divided nation and today we are even more divided. A successful outcome in Iraq can only be helped if Congress and the Bush Administration work to bring unity at home. In a hopeful sign, that kind of unity was on display when the Senate recently passed with overwhelming bipartisan support a resolution requiring accountability by the president in Iraq. The House should, at a minimum, do the same.

IN MEMORY OF HANK GROVER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to announce the passing of a great Texan, Henry Cushing "Hank" Grover, a man of singular vision and integrity. Born of humble roots in Corpus Christi, Texas, and raised in San Antonio during the Great Depression, Hank understood what it was to be humble and poor.

The middle child of eight, Hank was raised with solid grounding in those values Americans hold dear. His mother was a German immigrant, and his father was a descendent of Irish roots. Hank was a sixth generation Texan, whose family predated even the Republic of Texas. His great-great grandfather was the first European doctor on Texas soil, and his studies of Kickapoo medicine are archived in The University of Texas library. His